

**AMENDED CLAIMS**

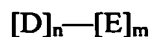
[received by the International Bureau on 17 January 2005 (17.01.05);  
original claim 1 amended; ; original claim 2 cancelled;  
claims 3-23 renumbered as claims 2-22 (4 pages)]

1. A coating composition for an implantable medical device comprising a combination of a bioactive and a vehicle therefor, wherein the vehicle comprises a first compound which is a random copolymer of Formula 1:



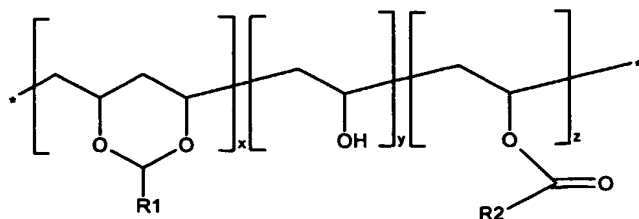
wherein A is a vinyl acetal group, B is a vinyl alcohol group and C is a vinyl acetate group and wherein  $x > 0$  and  $x+y+z=1$ ,

and a second compound which is polymer of Formula 2:



wherein D is a vinyl pyrrolidone group and E is a vinyl acetate group and wherein  $0 \leq m \leq 1$  and  $n+m=1$ .

2. A composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the proportion of said second compound is up to 80% by weight of the coating composition.
3. A composition as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein n is from 0.3 to 0.7 and m is from 0.3 to 0.7.
4. A composition as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein said second compound is poly(vinyl pyrrolidone-co-vinyl acetate) with an average Mw of 50,000.
5. A composition as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein  $[A]_x-[B]_y-[C]_z$  is a compound of Formula 1A:



wherein R1 and R2 are independently H or an alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl or aryl group and wherein optionally an alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl or aryl group may be substituted for any pendent hydrogen atom.

6. A composition as claimed in claim 5, wherein x is from 0.8 to 0.9, y is from 0.1 to 0.2 and z is from 0 to 0.025.
7. A composition as claimed in claim 5 or 6, wherein said first compound is poly(vinylbutyral-co-vinyl alcohol-co-vinyl acetate) with an average Mw from 50,000 to 80,000 and with 88 wt% vinyl butyral groups.
8. A composition as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the bioactive is dexamethasone, rapamycin or 17 $\beta$ -Estradiol.
9. A composition as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the proportion of bioactive to vehicle is from 1:9 to 1:1.
10. A method for coating a medical device comprising the step of:
  - (a) applying to at least a part of the device a first coating composition as claimed in any of claims 1 to 9.
11. A method as claimed in claim 10 additionally comprising the step of:
  - (b) applying a second coating composition as claimed in any of claims 1 to 9

wherein said first and said second coating composition are the same or different.

12. A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the first coating has a vehicle comprising said first compound and said second compound in a ratio from 80:20 to 100:0 and wherein the second coating has a vehicle comprising said first compound and said second compound in a ratio from 70:30 to 94:6.

13. A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the ratio of said first compound to said second compound is 98:2 in the first coating and 90:10 in the second.

14. A method as claimed in any of claims 11 to 13, wherein the first coating composition includes rapamycin and the second coating composition includes dexamethasone.

15. A medical device having a first coating of a composition as claimed in any of claims 1 to 9, wherein the first coating is applied directly to the device.

16. A device as claimed in claim 15 having a second coating (which is the same as or different to the first coating) as claimed in any of claims 1 to 9, wherein the second coating is applied to at least a part of the first coating.

17. A device as claimed in claim 16 wherein the first coating has a vehicle comprising said first compound and said second compound in a ratio from 80:20 to 100:0 and wherein the second coating has a vehicle comprising said first compound and said second compound in a ratio from 70:30 to 94:6.

18. A device as claimed in claim 17, wherein the ratio of said first compound to said second compound is 98:2 in the first coating and 90:10 in the second.

19. A device as claimed in any of claims 16 to 18, wherein the first coating composition includes rapamycin and the second coating composition includes dexamethasone.

- 20. A device as claimed in any of claims 15 to 19 which is a stent or graft-stent.
- 21. A method of using a device as claimed in any of claims 15 to 20 comprising implanting the device in an animal or human body.
- 22. A vehicle for carrying a bioactive, wherein the vehicle is as defined in any of claims 1 to 7.